

CLAIMS

1. Viral particle consisting of structural elements not derived from an alphavirus and containing an
5 alphavirus-derived vector made replication-defective by deletion, or replacement with at least one transgene, of the structural genes, **characterized** in that the structural elements of said particle are not encoded by the genome of the alphavirus-derived vector.
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2. Viral particle according to Claim 1, **characterized** in that the structural elements correspond to the VSV-G envelope protein alone.
- 15 3. Viral particle according to Claim 1, **characterized** in that the structural elements correspond to the structural proteins of a retrovirus.
4. Particle according to one of Claims 1 to 3,
20 **characterized** in that the alphavirus is a Semliki forest virus.
5. Particle according to one of Claims 1 to 4,
characterized in that the genome of the alphavirus-
25 derived vector contains the extended packaging sequence of MLV vectors.
6. Particle according to one of Claims 1 to 5,
characterized in that the genome of the alphavirus-
30 derived vector is devoid of psi sequence.
7. Particle according to one of Claims 1 to 6,
characterized in that the genome of the alphavirus-
derived vector comprises a 5'-positioned eukaryotic
35 promoter.
8. Particle according to one of Claims 1 to 7,
characterized in that the alphavirus-derived vector contains a mutated p26S promoter.

9. Use of the viral particle that is the subject of one of Claims 1 to 8, for infecting a eukaryotic cell *in vitro*.

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10. Pharmaceutical composition comprising the viral particle that is the subject of one of Claims 1 to 8.

10 11. Use of the viral particle that is the subject of one of Claims 1 to 8, for producing a medicinal product for use in the treatment of cancer.

12. Method for obtaining viral particles consisting of structural elements not derived from an alphavirus and
15 containing an alphavirus-derived vector made replication-defective by deletion, or replacement with at least one transgene, of the structural genes, consisting:

20 - in expressing in *trans*, in a cell line, the genes encoding the structural elements not derived from the alphavirus and the alphavirus-derived vector,

- in recovering the viral particles present in the cell culture supernatant.

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13. Method according to Claim 12, **characterized** in that the structural elements correspond to the VSV-G envelope protein.

30 14. Method according to Claim 13, **characterized** in that the expression in *trans* is obtained by cotransfection of a cell line with the vector for expressing the VSV-G envelope and the alphavirus-derived vector, the cotransfection being carried out in
35 two distinct steps, respectively the transfection of the line with the vector expressing the VSV-G envelope gene, and then a second transfection with the alphavirus-derived vector.

15. Method according to Claim 14, **characterized** in that the transfected cell line is a 293T cell line.

16. Method according to Claim 12, **characterized** in
5 that the structural elements correspond to the structural proteins of a retrovirus.

17. Method according to Claim 16, **characterized** in
10 that the expression in *trans* is obtained by transfection of an encapsidation cell line, that produces replication-defective retroviruses, with the alphavirus-derived vector.

18. Method according to Claim 17, **characterized** in
15 that the encapsidation cell line is obtained by stable transfection of a cell line with a first viral element expressing the retroviral *GAG* and *POL* genes and a second viral element expressing the retroviral *ENV* gene.

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19. Method according to Claim 16, **characterized** in that the expression in *trans* is obtained by triple transfection of a 293T cell line by introduction of a first viral element expressing the retroviral *GAG* and
25 *POL* genes, of a second viral element expressing the retroviral *ENV* gene and of the alphavirus-derived vector.

20. Method according to one of Claims 12 to 19,
30 **characterized** in that the alphavirus is a Semliki forest virus.

21. Method according to one of Claims 12 to 20, **characterized** in that the genome of the alphavirus-
35 derived vector contains the extended packaging sequence of MLV vectors.

22. Method according to one of Claims 12 to 21, **characterized** in that the genome of the alphavirus-derived vector is devoid of psi sequence.
- 5 23. Method according to one of Claims 12 to 22, **characterized** in that the genome of the alphavirus-derived vector comprises a 5'-positioned eukaryotic promoter.
- 10 24. Method according to one of Claims 12 to 23, **characterized** in that the alphavirus-derived vector contains a mutated p26S promoter.
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